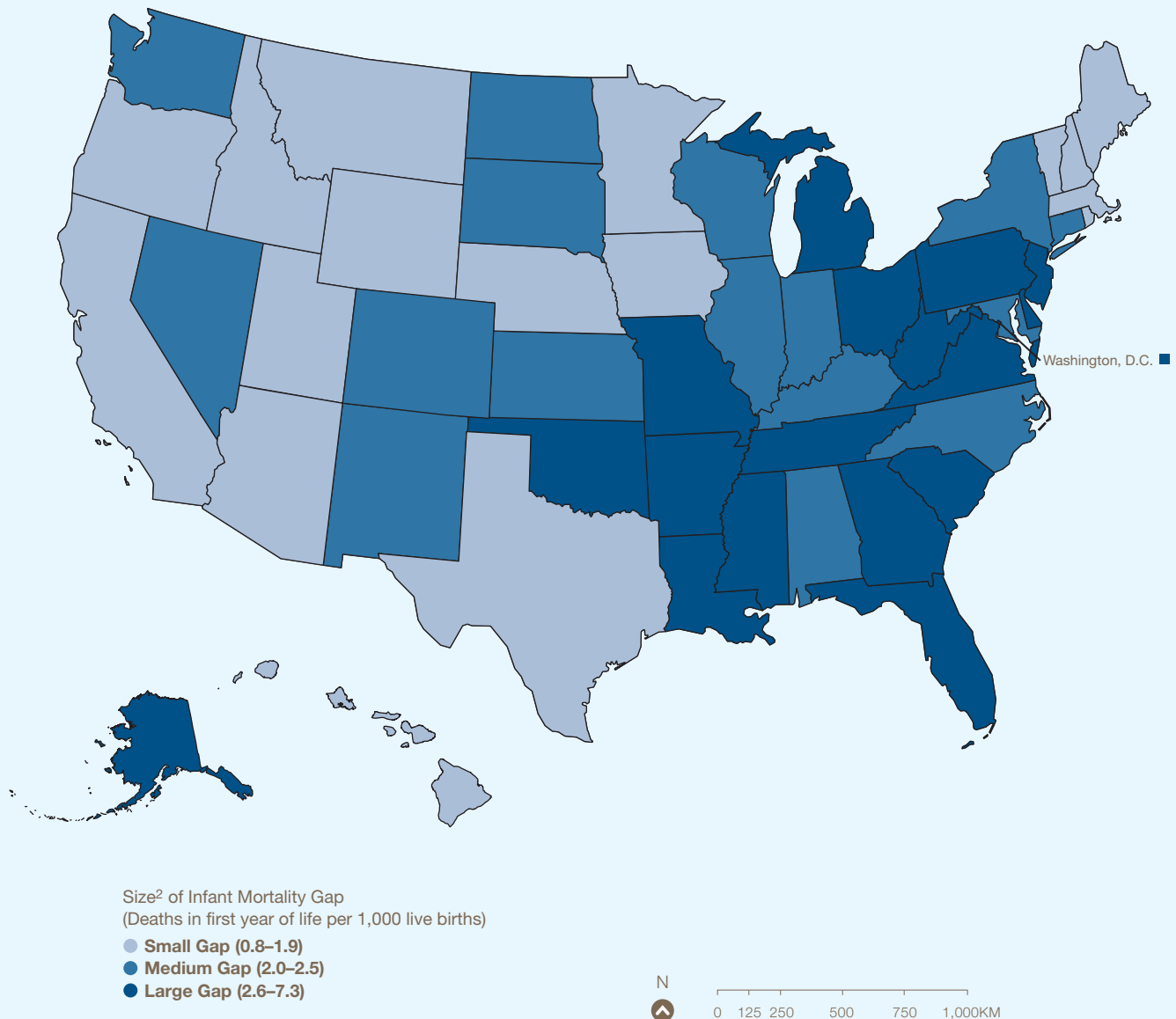


Gaps in Infant Mortality Rates by Mother's Education: How Do States Compare?

In almost every state, rates of infant mortality among babies born to mothers ages 20 years or older were lowest for those whose mothers had the most education and increased as the level of maternal education decreased. Although the size of the

state-level gap¹ in infant mortality by mother's education varies markedly across the United States, there is unrealized health potential among babies in every state.



Prepared for the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America by the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco.

Source: 2000–2002 Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set.

1 Defined as the size of improvement in the state's overall rate if all infants experienced the infant mortality rates of infants whose mothers had completed 16 or more years of schooling.

2 States were grouped into three approximately equal groups based on the size of the gaps in infant mortality rates by mother's education.

Note: Because fewer than 20 infant deaths occurred among babies born to mothers with 16 years or more of education in Alaska and Wyoming, estimates of the infant mortality gap by mother's education in these states are considered statistically unreliable.